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THE QUILL AND SCROLL HONOR SOCIETY

Submitted by Victoria Baum

Towards the end of December 2020, Governor Livingston High School English teacher and Newspaper and Yearbook Club Advisor, Ms. Staci Toporek, inducted 7 new members into the Quill and Scroll Honor Society. Quill and Scroll Honor Society was founded at the University of Iowa in 1926 by renowned pollster George H. Gallup and a group of high school advisers for the purpose of encouraging and recognizing individual student achievement in journalism and scholastic publication.

Members of Quill and Scroll Honor Society are selected from students enrolled in the high school who, at the time of their recommendation, meet specific requirements including having done, "superior work in some phase of journalism or school media work. They may be staffers of a magazine, newspaper, yearbook, news organization, online site or radio/television station at the school, or one conducted by an external organization."

The students being inducted, along with their parents, were joined by Principal Mr. Robert Nixon, Interim Vice Principal Mrs. DiNardi, and Vice Principal Mrs. Jacqueline Bartlett, at a zoom ceremony where Ms. Toporek spoke to them about their honor. As Ms. Toporek stated, "Today's inductees join a long list of amateur and professional journalists and leaders, as they become members of this 94 year old organization. Governor Livingston is one of 14,300 high schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 44 foreign countries who hold charters to Quill and Scroll."

Ms. Toporek continued, "...you have demonstrated your worthiness for membership in Quill and Scroll. The ability that you have displayed in your work shows much promise for your future, whether or not you choose to enter the profession of journalism. Talent means little if it is not accompanied by hard work and productivity, as you have shown. Membership in Quill and Scroll involves responsibilities, which you must not forget – the duty to devote yourself to the welfare of the school, and to any other group or community to which you may belong. Remember that to be a leader in a real sense, you must acquire a background for assessing and interpreting the events of the day – a major journalistic trait. And to act ethically, as you have learned."

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools

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POLICE DEPT SWEARS IN THREE NEW OFFICERS

officers were welcomed to the Mountainside Police Department ranks. The community was Police Officers.

On December 21, 2020 three new police asked to join in wishing them safety and success as they begin their new careers as Mountainside







(left) Atreu Melville joins MPD after serving as an East Orange Police Officer since 2018 where he was assigned to the Enhanced Community Safety Team and received commendations for

(center) Matthew Sanagustin served the Irvington Police Department as a SLEO2 assigned to support various special units including the Street Crimes Unit. He is a 1st Lieutenant in the Army National Guard assigned to a chemical weapons company.

(right) Natalie Santillo previously served as a Union County Sheriff's Officer since 2017 and was assigned various duties including serving as a P.T. instructor for The Union County Police

SERGEANT DONALD AMBERG RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

On December 21, 2020 Sergeant Donald Amberg was wished the best in the next phase of his life as he retired from the Mountainside Police Department after 25 years of faithful service. Sergeant Amberg served as a detective, a firearms instructor, and a longtime member of the Union County SWAT Team. During his career he earned numerous awards and responded to many SWAT team call outs throughout the county and beyond having been deployed to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina for 2 weeks.

Follow Mountainside Police Department on Facebook.







DR. KENNETH SCHNEIDER JOINS IMAGINE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

We are so pleased to welcome Kenneth Schneider, Ph.D of Summit to the Board of Trustees at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss in Mountainside and Newark.

Although Ken "retired" from his full-time academic position at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology of Rutgers University fifteen years ago, he continues to teach, supervise and mentor doctoral students in clinical and school psychology. He is a licensed New Jersey professional psychologist with a practice in Springfield and is an ally with individuals considered less able by many segments of society. The mission of Imagine coordinates with Ken's commitments. Offering a variety of resources without cost to individuals and families at a time when they are in need of unconditional human connection is a high calling.

Jersey Fresh, Ken was born, raised and inculcated by the diversity of the NY metro influences. He and his wife, Linda, a professional educator, raised their children in Mountainside and exposed them to the values of relationships, understanding others, and repairing the world in the smallest of ways. Their children are passing these values to their children. Under normal times Linda and Ken are Broadway enthusiasts and spend time in Kennebunk, Maine.

Imagine offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above) Kenneth Schneider, Ph.D, of Summit joined the Board of Trustees at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss.

RESCUE SQUAD MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

The Mountainside Rescue Squad is proud to announce our 2020 Members of the Year. Because so many of our members stepped up during the pandemic, and once again answered 100% of our duty calls including 40+ COVID confirmed patients, we had great difficulty choosing just one member for this award. Our 2020 Member of the Year has been awarded to Domenico Deluca and Aidan Herrighty. Our Probationary Member of the Year has been awarded to Megan Leick and Lila McMahill. Congratulations to you four and thank you for all you do for us and for the Mountainside community!

Follow Mountainside Rescue Squad on Facebook.



ANNOUNCING THE NEW OFFICE OF DR. EDWARD SOMMA IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

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Edward Anthony Somma, MD Internal Medicine

After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 year

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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(above) Isabella DiCosmo was awarded the inaugural Carmen J. Liuzza, Jr., Esq. '92 Memorial Scholarship.

Photos by Seton Hall University

ISABELLA DICOSMO AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Laurie Pine

The Inaugural Carmen J. Liuzza, Jr., Esq. '92 Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Mountainside resident Isabella DiCosmo, a senior political science and environmental studies major in Seton Hall University's College of Arts and Sciences, minoring in women and gender studies. The scholarship fund supports a senior year student with a commitment to law school graduate studies and pursuing a career in the legal profession.

This memorial scholarship honors the life of Carmen J. Liuzza, Jr., Esq. '92 Seton Hall University alumnus, husband, father, friend and former law partner of The Law Firm of Gruber, Colabella, Liuzza, Thompson and Hiben. His wife, Christina L. Liuzza '92, family, friends and colleagues in the legal profession created the

fund to recognize the tremendous impact that he had on the New Jersey legal community and those he served.

DiCosmo shared her wish to make a positive impact on the legal community as Mr. Liuzza had accomplished. She has already served as a legal intern in the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office in Jersey City, where she assisted assistant prosecutors in case summary memos, Grand Jury questions, and subpoena requests.

She also has enjoyed her involvement with the Seton Hall Dance Team and volunteering as a writing tutor at the University Writing Center. She is in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

For more information, visit shu.edu.

NAMI UNION COUNTY "CIRCLE OF FRIENDS"

The Union County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) invites area residents to join its Zoom "Circle of Friends" for a free informal evening of discussion on Feb. 23, from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

The format will be a panel discussion with Joyce Benz, LCSW, Director of Intensive Family Support Services of the Mental Health Assoc. in NJ as moderator along with other NAMI members. The panel will explore various topics affecting persons with mental illness and offer insight from their own experiences in dealing with these problems. Join us and bring your questions and concerns. This is an opportunity for information sharing with others who have a common interest.

Please register for this evening at naminj.org/support/affiliates/union/Upcoming Event. Click on the "Register Here" link which will not be available until a few days before the event.



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BICYCLE COLLECTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Submitted by Larry Holt

In August 2020, Renna Media reported that Faith Lutheran Church collected and repaired 170 used bikes from residents of New Providence, Berkeley Heights and neighboring towns. The collection was conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization which recycles bikes for persons in developing countries. Faith contributed \$1,700 toward the shipment of the

In the United States daily transportation occurs conveniently with little or no forethought. This is not the case in developing countries, where a village may not have one car. The mode of transportation for commuting to work, going to market and receiving medical care is frequently a pedal bike.

Later this year, Faith will again be asking persons to donate bikes for Faith to process through Pedals for Progress. A person may ask Faith to pick up the bike from his/her house or deliver the bike to Faith. If one wishes to donate a bike before the request, one may place the bike by the shed at the back of Faith's parking lot located at 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ. If you would like a bike picked up call 908-464-5177.

Since 2002 Faith has been participating in the Pedals for Progress program. For the past five years, Casey Walsh has chaired the ministry for Faith.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready. Visit online at famfaith.org, or reach by phone at 908-464-5177.



(above) This picture, sent to Faith by Pedals for Progress, demonstrates how completely and creatively the recipients use their bikes.

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TEACHERS AND STAFF OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

The Mountainside School District recently **DEERFIELD:** announced the 2020-2021 Mountainside Teachers, Educational Services Professionals, and Support Staff of the Year.

The following staff members were chosen for Support Staff - Carolee Lavey their dedication and support of the students, staff and families of the school community.

Follow Mountainside School District on Facebook

Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Sharon Scanlon **Educational Service Professional** - Mrs. Natalie Crisafulli

BEECHWOOD:

Teacher of the Year - Ms. Julie Lima **Educational Service Pofessional**

- Mrs. Lisa Bruno

Support Staff - Mrs. Maria Deanna







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SEA SCOUT SHIP 228 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE



(above) Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ.



(above) Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. Visit our website for more information ship228.com, or email Ship228.SeaDart@gmail.com.

mechanics? Come check out Sea Scouting and let the adventure at sea begin! The crew of Ship 228 will be hosting a virtual open house, taking place over Zoom on Saturday, March 13 at 4:00 p.m. and featuring various activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in scouting.

Sea Scouting is open to both male and females ages 14-21 who have graduated the 8th grade; we also have a new Maritime Explorer Club for younger youth in 6th to 8th grade. Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. Join us for a day on the water and bring a friend! Visit our website for more information ship228.com.

Ship 228 is proud to host the virtual open house. The event will include a tour of the ship's main vessel (the 65' Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, appearances from current Sea Scouts, a lively Q&A, and more.

To register, please provide your name, email address, and phone number (which is optional) in an email to Ship228.SeaDart@gmail.com.

Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their picturesque base located in Linden, New Jersey. Sea Scouting (which is part of the Venturing

Are you interested in boating, sailing, or Program of the Boy Scouts of America) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers. Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair, or visiting a new location on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.



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